



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO KC MEN INDICTED FOR RACIALLY-MOTIVATED MURDER**

### **FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS CHARGES STEM FROM MURDER OF WILLIAM McCAY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were indicted by a federal grand jury today under federal civil rights statutes for the racially-motivated murder of William McCay on March 9, 2005.

“Our allegation is that, tragically, William McCay was killed for no reason other than the fact that he was black,” Graves said. “Every citizen has the right to walk down any street in America, free from fear of attack because of their race or color. We will prosecute those who resort to violence and deny that right to their fellow citizens.”

**Gary L. Eye**, 19, and **Steven Sandstrom**, 20, both of Kansas City, were charged in a nine-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Michael Sanders announced at today’s press conference that he is withdrawing the state charges of first degree murder and armed criminal action filed against **Eye** in lieu of the federal prosecution.

“Mike Sanders and I agree that this case warrants prosecution under federal civil rights statutes,” Graves said.

“Several of these charges carry a maximum penalty of life in prison or death,” Graves added.

Count One of the federal indictment charges both co-defendants with interference with federally protected activities. **Eye** and **Sandstrom** allegedly aided and abetted one another to

shoot at William McCay with a firearm because of his race and color, while he was on a public street at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Spruce Avenue in Kansas City, Mo., on March 9, 2005.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to carry and use a .22-caliber revolver during and in relation to the crime of violence charged in Count One.

Count Three of the federal indictment also charges both co-defendants with interference with federally protected activities. **Eye** and **Sandstrom** allegedly aided and abetted one another to shoot William McCay, because of his race and color, while he was on a public street at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Brighton Avenue in Kansas City, on March 9, 2005. The commission of this offense, the indictment alleges, involved the use of a dangerous weapon and resulted in the death of William McCay.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to carry and use a .22-caliber revolver during and in relation to the crime of violence charged in Count Three. In committing this offense, the indictment alleges, **Eye** and **Sandstrom** caused the death of William McCay, killing him willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation and malice aforethought.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to kill William McCay on March 9, 2005, in order to prevent him from communicating to a federal law enforcement officer about the interference with his free exercise of his right to use the public streets, free from intimidation based upon race and color.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to carry and use a .22-caliber revolver during and in relation to the crime of violence charged in Count Five. In committing this offense, the indictment alleges, **Eye** and **Sandstrom** caused the death of William McCay, killing him willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation and malice aforethought.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to destroy a 2003 Dodge Intrepid on March 9, 2005, with the intent to impede or obstruct the possible investigation of a federal offense.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Eye** and **Sandstrom** aided and abetted one another to use fire to commit the offense charged in Count Seven.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Sandstrom** threatened to cause bodily injury to another person on July 31, 2005, to retaliate against that person for providing information to a law enforcement officer about the commission of a federal offense.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David M. Ketchmark and Michael Green, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hunt and Paige Fitzgerald, trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

Among those attending today's news conference to announce the federal indictment were Jackson County Prosecutor Michael Sanders, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Tim Gallagher, FBI Supervisory Special Agent Mike Sanders, Kansas City Police Chief James Corwin, and Kansas City Deputy Police Chief Rachel Whipple.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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